

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF SOUTH CAROLINA CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ROSA CLARK FREE MEDICAL CLINIC IN OONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) of South Carolina for their continued support of the Rosa Clark Free Medical Clinic in Oconee County, South Carolina.

For more than 50 years, BCBS of South Carolina has worked to increase access to quality health care for all South Carolina residents with the hope of providing a higher quality of life to individuals and families across the state. The BCBS of South Carolina has shown leadership in attempting to tackle the problem of preventative health care for the uninsured. Their work is a good example of how the private sector, and not the Federal Government, is better equipped to find innovative solutions to the challenges facing our Nation.

In addition to serving nearly 1 million customers and employing 12,000 South Carolinians, BCBS of South Carolina has also awarded millions of dollars in grants to local schools and medical facilities. These philanthropic efforts facilitated the hiring of health care professionals, furthering health care education, and ensuring South Carolinians have access to affordable quality health care.

One example of this giving exists in my home district, the Third District of South Carolina. In 2006, BCBS of South Carolina contributed \$100,000 to the Rosa Clark Free Medical Clinic in Oconee County, which helps provide health care to low-income residents who have no private medical insurance and are ineligible for government insurance programs. In addition, this year they are contributing an additional \$34,040 to the facility as a measure of support for the clinic's ongoing mission of serving those in Oconee County.

I ask my colleagues in the 110th Congress to join me in applauding BCBS of South Carolina for being an active partner with the local community and for their ongoing efforts to help reduce overall health care costs for my constituents and our State. I also want to thank those at the Rosa Clark Free Medical Clinic in my home county for all they do to improve the lives of others on a daily basis.

THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S RIGHTS HISTORY PROJECT ACT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, today, as we mark the anniversary of the first ever

women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York, I am proud to celebrate the accomplishments of our foremothers by introducing the National Women's Rights History Project Act.

In contemporary American society, women enjoy rights to education, wages, and property ownership. However, it was only 87 years ago that women were finally granted the right to vote. Yet few Americans have any real knowledge of the long struggle to obtain the rights that we take for granted today. The National Women's Rights History Project Act will provide Americans with the opportunity to learn more about the female heroes that fought tirelessly to secure these rights.

On July 19, 1848, a group of activists including Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, and Mary Ann M'Clintock convened the first women's rights convention at Wesleyan Chapel in Seneca Falls, New York. The women's rights convention heralded the beginning of a 72-year struggle for suffrage. During the convention, 68 women and 32 men signed the Declaration of Sentiments, which was drafted to mirror the Declaration of Independence and set out such radical notions like women's freedom to own property, receive an education, and file for divorce.

In 1851, a second women's rights convention was held in Akron, Ohio. It was at this convention that Sojourner Truth delivered the famous "Ain't I a Woman?" speech. The woman's suffrage movement, however, was not solely limited to organized conventions. Under the leadership of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony the National American Women Suffrage Association (NAWSA) was formed.

Susan B. Anthony also established the Equal Rights Association to refute ideas that women were inferior to men and fight for a woman's right to vote. In 1872, Susan B. Anthony and other women voted in the Presidential election, and were arrested and fined for illegal voting. At her trial, which attracted nationwide attention, Susan B. Anthony made a speech that ended with the slogan "Resistance to Tyranny Is Obedience to God." She also campaigned for the rights of women to own property, to keep their own earnings, and to have custody of their children. I am especially proud that it was in Rochester, New York, that Susan B. Anthony fought so hard for the rights that women throughout this country rely on today. In fact, in 1900, she persuaded the University of Rochester, in my Congressional District, to admit women.

In the early 1900s, a new generation of leaders joined the women's suffrage movement, including Carrie Chapman Catt, Maud Wood Park, Lucy Burns, Alice Paul, and Harriot E. Blatch. During this era, the women's rights movement increased its momentum by organizing marches, pickets and other protests. Suffragette Alice Paul and other activists began chaining themselves to the White House fence and participating in hunger strikes to gain the attention of Congress.

The struggle for women's suffrage was not easy, and oftentimes it was made more dif-

ficult as a consequence of public misinformation and fear. Consider these remarks which, in 1912, appeared in the New York Times under the title, "The Uprising of Women":

The vote will secure to woman no new privilege that she either deserves or requires . . . Women will get the vote and play havoc with it for themselves and society, if men are not wise and firm enough and it may as well be said, masculine enough, to prevent them.

If by playing havoc, the New York Times meant becoming the single most sought after voting block in the country that often determines the outcome of elections, I guess they were right.

Because of the persistent dedication of Susan B. Anthony and other remarkable leaders, women persevered. Although Susan B. Anthony was not alive to see it, the efforts of the women's rights struggle came to fruition when the nineteenth amendment to the U.S. Constitution, giving women the right to vote, was finally passed by Congress on June 4, 1919, and ratified on August 18, 1920.

We have clearly come a long way in 87 years—and we still have a long way to go. We must work to continue the momentum that started in Seneca Falls, by not only ensuring that all women vote, but that they do so with an understanding of the long fight to obtain this right and with a sense of responsibility to do their part in the struggle for women's equality.

To honor these important women, the National Women's Rights History Project Act will establish a trail route linking sites significant to the struggle for women's suffrage and civil rights. It also will expand the current National Register travel itinerary Web site, "Places Where Women Made History," to include additional historic sites. Finally, this bill will require the Department of the Interior to establish a partnership-based network to offer financial and technical assistance for interpretive and educational program development of national women's rights history.

The women of this country have fought tirelessly to achieve equitable rights for our grandmothers, our mothers, ourselves, and our daughters. It is my hope that this bill will provide Americans with the opportunity to learn more about the female leaders who struggled to secure these rights.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all Members to join me in celebrating their accomplishments by cosponsoring the National Women's Rights History Project Act today.

COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, this is a very auspicious time for affordable housing advocates. For the first time in far too long, we

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